

REMARKS

This response is being filed with a Petition for an Extension of Time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or underpayment thereof or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 50-0436.

Claims 1-16 and 30-32 are pending in this application. No further amendments to the claims are made herein.

The Office Action indicates that the claims are rejected solely on the basis that the parent patent, US 5,788,178 is expired. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has granted Applicant's Petition to Accept Late Payment of Maintenance Fees, see April 9, 2007 Decision granting the Petition. Unfortunately, the Office apparently overlooked authorization to charge the second maintenance fee which became payable during the pendency of the Petition.

Applicants have finally been able to obtain a Supplemental Decision on Petition which clarifies that the second maintenance fee was also authorized in the originally allowed Petition. (see July 30, 2008 Supplemental Decision on Petition, enclosed.) The second maintenance fee has now been accepted. Accordingly, no further rejections remain in the case. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or underpayment thereof or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 50-0436.

Early allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. The examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview, telephonic or personal, would facilitate allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,
Pepper Hamilton LLP
/Michael A. Patané/

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by: Michael A. Patané
Reg. No. 42, 982

3000 Two Logan Square
Eighteenth and Arch Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2799
215.981.4997